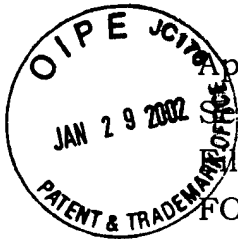


BSI-010US4

PATENT

3738

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: George Goicoechea et al. : Art Unit: 3738
Serial No.: 09/977,826 : Examiner:
Filed: October 15, 2001 :
FOR: BIFURCATED ENDOLUMINAL :
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 submitted herewith.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

Copies of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,716,365; 5,718,724; 5,776,180; 5,800,508; 5,938,696; 6,051,020; 6,117,167; 6,165,213; 6,302,906 are enclosed. Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of the remaining patents and publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form 1449 are not required to be provided, because they are believed to have been cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in prior application Serial No. 09/313,593, filed May 18, 1999 (now U.S.

ordered
10/7/02

Patent No. 6,302,906), which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

No fee or certification is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Respectfully submitted,



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Encls.: PTO Form 1449
Dated: January 15, 2002

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